

REPUBLICANS of Olmsted County

February 18, 2025 Convention Rules

The Rules define our code of conduct for the duration of the Convention. The Rules Committee drafts a starting point and the Convention amends and approves them as part of its proceedings.

Section 1: General

1. This Convention shall be governed by the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Olmsted County, Minnesota, the Statutes of the State of Minnesota, the Official Call of this Convention, and the Rules adopted by this Convention. Any points not covered thereby shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order; Newly Revised, 12th Edition.
2. The order of business of this convention shall be as listed in the official agenda of the convention. The sequence of events may be changed at the discretion of the convention Chair, hereafter referred to as the Chair.
3. The Convention Chair shall be elected by the Convention.
4. The Convention Secretary shall be elected by the Convention.
5. A point of order concerning a ruling of the Convention Chair shall, before appeal is taken to the floor, be considered by the Parliamentarian who shall advise the Convention Chair on the matter. The ruling of the Convention Chair stands unless overridden by a majority vote of the delegates and seated alternates.
6. Appointment of Officers shall be made by the Convention Chair and will include: Parliamentarian, Head Teller, Sergeant at Arms, and Timer.
7. Appointment of Committees shall be made by the Convention Chair and will include: Credentials, Rules, and Nominations.
8. The Officers and Committees appointed by the Chair shall be ratified by the Convention.
9. A quorum is 15% of the Olmsted County Committee Delegates. Once a quorum has been established, it shall remain until adjournment of the convention.

10. These rules, once adopted, shall not be amended or suspended, except by a two-thirds vote of the convention.
11. The agenda, once adopted, shall not be amended except by a two-thirds vote of the convention.
12. All electronic devices shall be set to silent mode.
13. Any items or persons determined by the Chair to be a disruption shall be removed from the convention.
14. Conversation unrelated to convention business will be engaged off the convention floor. Attendees shall not disrupt order and decorum and, at the discretion of the Chair, may be removed for interruptions/actions that are determined out of order or not germane to the agenda.
15. Handouts may be distributed at the convention, but must contain the names of the organization and the physical address of the organization or the name of the individual and physical address and/or PO Box of the individual paying for said material. The exception to this rule is for a federal candidate's campaign registered with the FEC, when it does not require by law a physical address on campaign material. Additionally, items that are too small to place a disclaimer on are exempt from this rule (Ex. Stickers, pens, buttons, etc.) The Sergeant-at-Arms will confiscate any signs or handouts not having such disclaimer. Campaign signs and other materials cannot be placed behind or immediately in front of or beside the convention podium and convention officials' tables. It is the responsibility of the source to remove all literature/signs within thirty (30) minutes after adjournment.
16. The convention is a private gathering for Olmsted County Delegates, Alternates, and registered guests. No members of the media will be allowed. No audio/video recording or electronic transmission of this convention by any individual in attendance is allowed unless approved ahead of time by the Republican Party of Olmsted County.
17. Only delegates and seated alternates registered and present at this convention, and others authorized by these rules or the Chair, shall be permitted on the convention floor. Candidates that are not Delegates or seated Alternates may receive a floor pass for themselves.
18. A motion to adjourn or recess the convention shall not be in order until all items on the agenda have been considered.
19. A minority report of any committee may be presented if signed by at least one-third of the committee members, unless otherwise specified by the Constitution or Bylaws.

Section 2: Seating of Delegates and Alternates

20. Only delegates and alternates validated by the Credentials Committee may be registered.
21. A seated Alternate is automatically granted all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a Delegate and is automatically included in any statement in these rules that uses the term

“Delegate”.

22. The permanent voting roll of the convention shall be delegates and seated alternates elected at the 2024 Precinct Caucuses who still reside in the same precinct from which they were elected.
23. Following the preliminary credentials report, less than full precinct delegations may be filled by seating registered alternates. Seating of alternates shall be the duty of the Precinct Chairs. Per our Constitution,
24. Alternate delegates are “seated in the order prescribed by the precinct caucus and, if none, by lot.”
25. If a precinct has no registered delegates or alternates, there shall be no representation from that precinct.
26. The voting strength of the convention shall be the delegates and seated alternates from each delegation.
27. Any delegate or alternate must be registered with the Credentials Committee no later than the time specified on the convention call for the closing of registration.
28. Delegates and alternates who arrive after the final Credentials Report shall not be seated.
29. Cross seating of delegates and/or alternates between senate districts shall not be permitted.
30. In the event situations arise concerning the seating of delegates or filling of vacancies that are not covered by these rules, they shall be referred to the Credentials Committee for decision, subject to appeal to the Convention Chair.

Section 3: Speaking

31. A delegate or seated alternate wishing to speak shall rise, address the Chair by using a microphone, and once recognized by the Chair, state their name, ward and precinct, and the purpose for which they rise.
32. The Chair may recognize and allow elected officials, Party Officers, and other invited guests the privilege of addressing the convention for a period of up to three (3) minutes each. However, the Chair shall have flexibility in enforcing this rule.
33. Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to two (2) minutes by each speaker. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice upon the same subject. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time until all those desiring to speak have had a first opportunity to do so. Total debate on any motion or subject is limited to six (6) minutes, including up to three (2) minutes pro and three (2) minutes con in alternating order, or until there are no speakers remaining.
34. Discussion of a motion will begin with a Delegate who wishes to speak in support of the

motion, followed by a Delegate who wishes to speak in opposition to the motion. If no Delegates wish to speak in support of the motion, discussion may begin by a Delegate who wishes to speak in opposition to the motion.

35. The Chair shall appoint a timekeeper for the purpose of timing discussion, debate, and speeches during the convention.
36. No Speaker shall advocate on behalf of any candidate being voted on by the convention, except during the times provided herein.

Section 4: Voting

37. The vote on all questions shall be by a show of voting cards.
38. If a party officer election is uncontested, voting may be by a show of voting cards. If a party officer election is contested, voting shall be by secret ballot only.
39. The Head Teller will be appointed by the Chair, and shall distribute the ballot.
40. Voter intent will be used when tallying ballots. The Head Teller will determine any voting dispute.
41. Each candidate's campaign will be allowed two people to be physically present to observe the counting of any ballots regarding that candidate's election. The candidate must personally provide the names of their observers to the Head Teller. Any such observers must not interact with the persons counting ballots. Any observer who physically contacts any ballot or counting documentation or apparatus shall be removed from the room immediately. Any questions or concerns should be raised directly to the Head Teller.
42. Only the Head Teller may disclose the results of any round of balloting outside of the teller room, including to candidates or their campaigns. If a teller or observer discloses the results before the Head Teller, they will not be allowed back in the teller room. Any other person present in the teller room, including observers, must not disclose partial or final voting results until the Head Teller has announced the results to the convention. The Head Teller may require all persons present in the teller room to surrender electronic devices. It is expected that tellers will remain in the room until the Head Teller dismisses them.

Section 5: Election of Party Officers

43. The Nominations Committee Chair shall place into nomination the names of candidates for Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Vice Chairs, and Secretary. Candidates must meet all requirements to run as established by the Olmsted County Constitution, MNGOP Bylaws, State Executive Committee and the Nominations Committee.

44. Candidates who don't meet the requirements, or are found to be unqualified, will not address the convention. An explanation as to why a candidate was found to be unqualified shall be included in the Nominations Committee Report.
45. The order of presenting names of candidates shall be determined by lot. Candidates who are found to be qualified, each be given two (2) minutes to address the convention, including any optional nominating speeches or related presentations. After the first round of balloting, no speeches will be permitted. After the second round of balloting is completed, each candidate will be given one (1) minute to address the convention before the third round of balloting.
46. The candidates for Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by receiving a majority of the ballots cast for that office. The ballots cast shall consist of all ballots that are turned in whether or not they are spoiled. Whenever there are more than two candidates on the ballot, the two candidates with the most votes will proceed to the next round of balloting. In the case of Vice Chairs, the top 8 candidates on the first round of voting will be considered elected.
47. Nominations from the floor for all positions are in order, as appropriate.

Section 6: Election of State Central Committee Delegates and Alternates

48. Election of Delegates (8) to the State Central Committee will be conducted. Each candidate will have a maximum of 1 ½ minutes to address the convention, including any presentations or nominating speeches. Voting will be by secret ballot. The top eight (8) candidates will be Delegates. In case of a tie for delegate eight (8), the seat will be decided by lot. The remaining candidates will be Alternate Delegates ranked 1-16 according to their vote total.
49. Nominations from the floor for all positions are in order, as appropriate.

Section 7: Election of Central Committee Members At Large

50. Election of Members At Large (10) to the Olmsted County BPOU Central Committee will be conducted. Each candidate will have a maximum of 1 ½ minutes to address the convention, including any presentations or nominating speeches. Voting will be by secret ballot. The top ten (10) candidates will be elected. In case of a tie for delegate ten, the seat will be decided by lot.
51. Nominations from the floor for all positions are in order, as appropriate.

End of rules